Ontario

Result-based Plan Briefing Book 2013-14

Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

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PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN BRIEFING BOOK 2013-14

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PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN 2013-14

1.1 MINISTRY OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) was created in 2007 to develop a stronger, broader partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Ontario to fulfill Ontario's Aboriginal Agenda.

MAA leads corporate government initiatives on Aboriginal affairs, and coordinates cross-ministry Aboriginal policy initiatives and multi-lateral relationship processes.

1.1.1 Mandate

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs envisions a higher quality of life for Aboriginal people in Ontario through development of sustainable economies and improved social conditions.

MAA's mandate requires it to:

- Develop policy in partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, Ontario ministries and the federal government, where appropriate
- Settle land claims and address historic grievances more quickly
- Promote collaboration and coordination across ministries on Aboriginal policy and programs
- Set priorities for and track the progress of Ontario's Aboriginal agenda
- Enhance government and public awareness of Aboriginal people, issues and practices for consulting and engaging with Aboriginal people
- Help Aboriginal people to access Ontario government programs, services and information
- Encourage diversity, especially representation of Aboriginal people in the Ontario Public Service.

Building on this broad mandate, the strategic direction sets the focus on four areas:

- Building stronger relationships between Ontario and Aboriginal partners
- Improving social conditions and quality of life for Aboriginal people
- Increasing economic opportunity and sustainability for Aboriginal people
- Resolving land claim issues and working to achieve reconciliation between Aboriginal people and the Ontario government.

While other provincial ministries are responsible for delivery of most programs and services designed specifically to improve socio-economic conditions, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is mandated to work with them to coordinate policy and program initiatives designed to deliver on these key priorities for First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

1.1.2 Ministry Contribution to Priorities and Results

MAA's corporate priorities for 2013-14 include:

Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs Initiatives:

1. Strengthening collaborative relationships with First Nations, Métis and Inuit leadership and communities.

2. Providing advice to the provincial government on Aboriginal policies and priorities.

3. Leading Ontario's participation in land claim and treaty negotiations.

4. Increasing government and public awareness and knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people and issues.

5. Leading and coordinating corporate consultation/engagement; operational policy and guidance activities for ministries.

6. Promoting Aboriginal well-being including improvements to education, skills training and health, in collaboration with the federal government.

7. Supporting capacity building in First Nations and other Aboriginal communities in response to resource development projects to ensure benefits to Aboriginal peoples.

8. Facilitating Aboriginal peoples, communities and organizations' access to provincial programs and services.

9. Providing emergency response coordination, Aboriginal issues identification, coordination and management.

10. Working with other ministries, First Nations and Métis leaders to continue implementation of the recommendations of the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry.

11. Working with other ministries, First Nation and Métis leaders and the federal government to continue making progress in closing the socio-economic gap.

12. Working with other ministries and urban Aboriginal organizations to conduct research and policy analysis aimed at improving the quality of life of Aboriginal people living in urban areas of the province.

13. Improving economic growth and creating jobs through facilitating Aboriginal, industry and government partnerships, development of Aboriginal businesses and Aboriginal community economic infrastructure.

14. Administering the New Relationship Fund to assist First Nations, Métis communities, and Aboriginal organisations to participate in meaningful consultation and engagement with government and the private sector.

15. Developing public-facing guidance on consultation matters, intended for use by industry, municipalities and other external stakeholders and partners.

16. Co-leading coordination on the government's response to the *Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women* with the Ontario Women's Directorate, including the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Violence Against Aboriginal Women comprised of eight other provincial ministries and five Aboriginal partner organizations.

MAA Support to Other Provincial Ministry-Led Initiatives:

1. Representing Ontario on the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group composed of all provinces and territories and national Aboriginal organizations; participate in working groups on the priority areas of education and economic development, including housing, ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls, and disaster mitigation.

2. Working with Aboriginal, provincial and the federal government, and the private for-profit and non-profit sectors to improve socio-economic outcomes and community well-being, especially those initiatives targeted at Aboriginal children and youth.

3. Collaborating with other ministries to develop and implement key policy initiatives that impact Aboriginal people and ensure that these initiatives support Aboriginal economic development. Initiatives include the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009*, *Mining Act* modernization, Far North Land Use Planning, the Northern Ontario Growth Plan, the *Forest Tenure Modernization Act, 2011*, broadband connectivity, Aboriginal Child and Youth Strategy, Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and other provincial initiatives.

4. With the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, supporting the facilitation of capacity, involvement and socio-economic opportunities for First Nations involved in the Ring of Fire developments.

5. Continuing to work with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Community and Social Services on increasing economic opportunities for Aboriginal people through Employment and Training Services Integration.

6. Continuing to work with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and partner ministries on the implementation of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario to ensure Aboriginal people are well positioned to benefit from the economic success of northern Ontario.

7. Working with land and resource ministries to ensure Aboriginal communities are meaningfully involved in, and sharing the benefits from, natural resource development opportunities.

8. Continuing to work to close the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples by:
    a. Cooperating with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Aboriginal partners on the development of an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy.

b. Continuing to work with the Ministry of Education on developing supports to improve First Nations, Métis and Inuit student outcomes.
c. Working with other ministries to develop policy options that meet the needs and provide support for Aboriginal people, including health, child welfare, and social assistance (supports for seniors and support in implementing the Iacobucci report on jury selection with the Ministry of the Attorney General).

In pursuing these goals, MAA contributes to the achievement of the government's key commitments, priorities and results.

1.1.3 Ministry Programs and Activities

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs works to meet the Ontario government's Aboriginal Agenda to build trust, prosperity and hope with Aboriginal people through the following activities:

Meeting Legal Obligations

The Ministry is directed toward (i) meeting the Crown's legal obligations to Aboriginal peoples arising from section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, treaty and Aboriginal rights, provincial and federal legislation and policies, and (ii) fostering reconciliation between Ontario and Aboriginal Peoples living in Ontario.

Where supported on a historical and legal basis, MAA participates in land claim negotiations to resolve them. MAA is undertaking the following land claim and land-related activities province-wide:

1. Conducting land claim negotiations and implementing land claim settlement agreements on behalf of the province.

2. Working with the federal government and Algonquin representatives to negotiate a settlement that will address the issues raised by the Algonquin land claim.

3. Working with the Ministry of Natural Resources on the decommissioning of Ipperwash Park so it can be added to reserve lands.

4. MAA jointly established an Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee with First Nations to address the recommendations of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report. The Committee is continuing its work on the priorities identified: Treaty Commission, First Nations policing and heritage and burial sites.

5. Implementing negotiation process improvements to promote the efficient resolution of land claims.

6. Improving coordination with Canada to respond to its land claim negotiation process efficiencies.

7. Continuing to provide corporate policy and operational guidance and advice to ministries on meeting the Crown's legal duty to consult when the Crown undertakes

activities that may impact Aboriginal and Treaty rights. MAA also provides input and advice to ministries in preparing legislation and regulations. MAA, in collaboration with other ministries, develops and provides internal corporate tools and guidance on consultation.

Improving Economic Growth/Creating Jobs

Strong and vibrant Aboriginal businesses benefit First Nations, Métis and Inuit, as well as Ontario as a whole. Improving economic growth and creating jobs for Aboriginal people will involve MAA by:

1. Implementing the two-year Aboriginal procurement pilot initiative, announced in March 2012, to increase business and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people to do business with the Ontario government.

2. Supporting the participation of Métis entrepreneurs and Métis-owned businesses in resource development opportunities through funding provided to the Métis Voyageur Development Fund Inc.

3. Working with Aboriginal partners and ministries to enhance participation and ensure greater benefits to Aboriginal people from natural resource development opportunities.

4. Providing ongoing support for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and business owners through the Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit and the Aboriginal Business Directory.

5. Working with other ministry partners to ensure that Aboriginal economic development is supported through the *Forest Tenure Modernization Act*, the *Green Energy Act*, Far North Land Use Planning, the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, and other provincial initiatives.

6. Working with the federal government to coordinate and align Aboriginal economic development priorities.

7. Working with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to identify economic and business opportunities for First Nations and Métis as part of the Ring of Fire development and facilitate their access to these opportunities, including capacity and business support.

8. Improving economic opportunities for First Nations located near the Ring of Fire through targeted investments in skills training, governance and capacity building.

9. Working with the Ministry of Finance and First Nation pilot project communities to explore options for self-regulation of tobacco on reserve, as well as developing strategies for the diversification of economies on reserve beyond tobacco.

10. Working with Aboriginal communities and organizations to regularly share key economic development information and resources, and to support economic

development events such as the First Nations Economic Developers Association annual conference.

11. Administering the First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing and Financial Agreement. The goal of the Agreement is to provide First Nations with long-term, stable support to improve the quality of life in First Nation communities.

12. Participating in the economic working group of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group.

13. Expecting to fund up to five new capital projects and close eight existing capital projects through the Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Program in 2013-14.

New Relationship Fund

The New Relationship Fund (NRF) assists First Nations and Métis communities to build fundamental capacity to participate in meaningful consultation and engagement with government and the private sector, on lands and resources matters through multi-year Core Consultation Capacity Building transfer payment agreements.

The NRF also invests, through one-year Enhanced Capacity Building funding, in communities and organizations who are building their internal resources over and above Core Consultation Capacity to engage in economic development activities, as well as Aboriginal organizations to build capacity to engage with government (provincial, municipal) and industry.

Improving Youth Outcomes

The 2011 Speech from the Throne committed the government to continue to work hard to close the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. This commitment was reaffirmed in the 2013 Speech from the Throne. The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in collaboration with other provincial ministries, supports strategic investments targeted towards Aboriginal youth and community well-being. More broadly, MAA continues to work to close the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, including by:

1. Cooperating with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Aboriginal partners to respond to key reports relating to children and youth services, including the report of the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare and the Children First Report prepared by MCYS' Aboriginal Advisor, John Beaucage. As part of this, MAA is supporting the Ministry of Children and Youth Services' engagement with Aboriginal partners on the development of an Aboriginal Child and Youth Strategy, which aims to improve outcomes for First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Urban Aboriginal children and youth in the province.
2. Working with the Ministry of Education, the Government of Canada and the Chiefs of Ontario on the First Nation Student Achievement Strategy that aims to improve education outcomes for Aboriginal students on-reserve, to increase support for First Nations students and facilitate successful transitions between First Nations schools and the provincially funded education system.

3. Continuing to work with the Ministry of Education in bilateral discussions with the Anishinabek Nation to ensure that educational outcomes are improved and to see how results can be replicated in other parts of the province.

4. Working with the Ministry of Education on developing support for First Nations, Métis and Inuit education policy and programs.

5. Working with other ministries in tripartite arrangements with the federal government and Aboriginal partners. These processes include, but are not limited to, health, child welfare and social assistance.

6. Participating in Pikangikum First Nation's Social, Health, Education and Elders Committee to support the development of a social development strategy for Pikangikum and review the Coroner's report on Youth Suicides in Pikangikum.

7. Working with other ministries, First Nations and the federal government in improving community wellness and identifying opportunities for youth resulting from the Ring of Fire development.

8. Leading the work of the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group (comprised of all provinces and territories and five National Aboriginal Organizations) in the area of Aboriginal youth to:

    a. Call for a First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal education and develop a framework for that meeting.
    b. Develop a joint work plan with the Council of Ministers of Education on shared priorities.
    c. Develop a report on education self-identification practices from across the country.
    d. Develop an inventory of innovative bilateral agreements for education with the federal government and regional Aboriginal organizations.

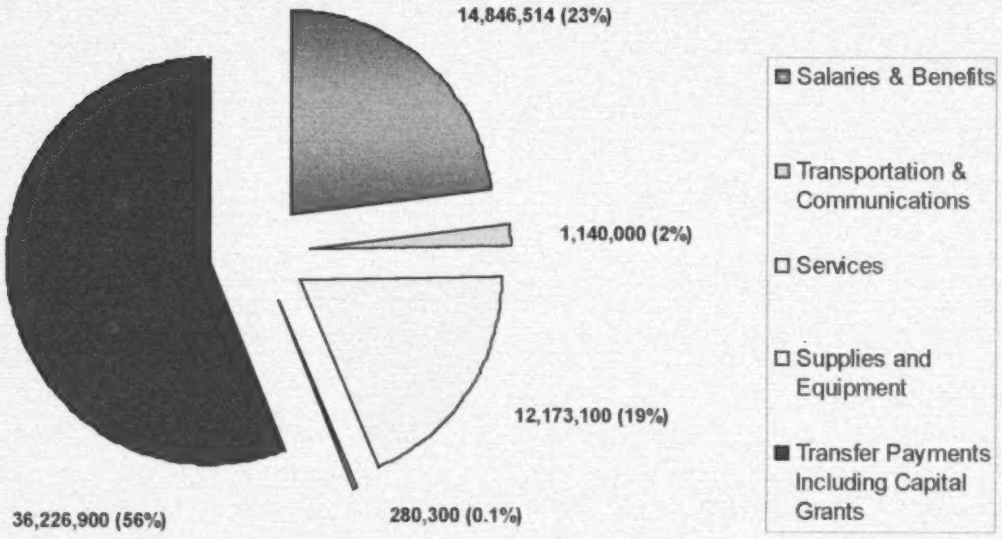
9. Working with other ministries in developing policy options aimed at meeting the needs and providing support for Aboriginal people. These include, but are not limited to, health, child welfare, social assistance, supports for seniors and support in implementing the Iacobucci report with the Ministry of the Attorney General.

10. Working with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Ontario Native Women's Association to establish an Urban Aboriginal Table to support provincial policy development.

Increasing Capacity

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs provides direct funding to First Nations, Métis and Aboriginal organizations which permits them to hire staff and experts to enhance their ability to build relationships with government and engage in consultation.

Ministry Allocation of 2013-14 Base Spending ($64.7M)
By Standard Account



Ministry Allocation of 2013-14 Base Spending ($64.7M)
By Vote and Item (V/I)

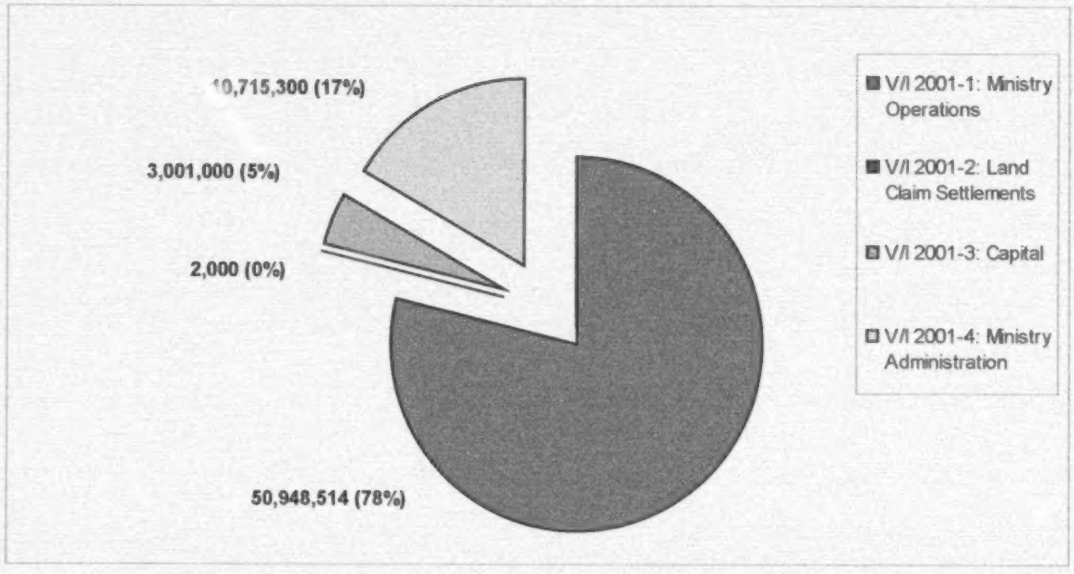


Table 1: Ministry Planned Expenditures 2013-14 ($M)

Operating	61.7
Capital	3.0
TOTAL	64.7

1.2 HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012-13 ACHIEVEMENTS

The following section notes the highlights of achievements of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs through the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Meeting Legal Obligations

Meeting the Crown's legal obligations to Aboriginal Peoples arising from section 35 of the Canadian Constitution, treaty and Aboriginal rights, provincial and federal legislation and policies

Fostering reconciliation between Ontario and Aboriginal peoples living in Ontario:

- The Ministry worked jointly with First Nations and Métis to respond to the recommendations of the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry through the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee.
- The Ministry continues to undertake research regarding historic Métis communities and corporate policy development to ensure a one-Crown approach.

A significant milestone was achieved in the negotiation of a new Treaty with the Algonquins of Ontario with the public release of a Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle in December 2012. Work was continued with the federal government and Algonquin representatives to consult with stakeholders and the public, including holding nine public information sessions in Eastern Ontario and Toronto.

Progress was made with Attawapiskat First Nation and partner ministries to resolve outstanding land issues in the community. Addressing these issues will facilitate development of critical housing and other community infrastructure requirements.

Improvements have been implemented to ensure that new land claim submissions are researched and assessed within three years of filing.

MAA signed a communications protocol with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council to engage one another on issues of mutual importance, helping build a stronger relationship.

MAA provided funding in support of both the Mercury Disability Board operations and payments to beneficiaries of the Mercury Disability Fund. As of March 31, 2013 there were 188 beneficiaries of the Mercury Disability Fund.

Improving Economic Growth/Creating Jobs

- Improved access for Aboriginal businesses to government procurement opportunities through the two-year Aboriginal procurement pilot program.
- Provided ongoing support for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and business owners through the Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit and Aboriginal Business Directory.
- Launched the Métis Voyageur Development Fund, which uses provincial funds to support Métis resource-sector entrepreneurs and Métis-owned businesses.
- Improved economic opportunities for First Nations located near the Ring of Fire through $3.1M in targeted investments in skills training, governance and capacity building.
- Worked with Aboriginal communities and organizations to regularly share key economic development information and resources, and to support economic development events like the First Nations Economic Developers Association annual conference.
- Funded four new capital projects and closed eight capital projects through the Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Program.

New Relationship Fund

The government funded 105 Core Consultation Capacity projects. Core Consultation Funding has allowed communities to:

- hire a Core Consultation Point Person to increase consultation capacity within their community and support good relationships;
- develop internal consultation protocols to establish a process for internal community consultation and decision making. This has allowed communities to develop and improve relationships and build partnerships with other Aboriginal communities/organizations, industry and government;
- develop multi-year plans for improving consultation capacity. These plans promote strategic thinking and encourage communities and organizations to capitalize on opportunities on an ongoing basis; and
- initiate economic development-related consultations.

The government also funded 53 Enhanced Capacity Building projects which have allowed communities and organizations to build their internal resources and to engage in economic development activities, and engage with government (provincial, municipal) and industry.

Improving Youth Outcomes

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs worked toward improving outcomes for Aboriginal youth in Ontario through a number of initiatives involving Aboriginal partners, non-government organizations, provincial ministries and the federal government. MAA supported strategic investments targeted towards Aboriginal youth and community well-being, and achievements including the following:

- MAA worked in partnership with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services on developing an engagement strategy to support the development an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Education, MAA contributed to the development of a joint policy initiative aimed at improving education outcomes for First Nation students.
- MAA assumed a leadership role aiming to address the Aboriginal education achievement gap by chairing the Aboriginal Affairs Working group Education Sub-committee with provinces, territories and National Aboriginal Organizations.
- MAA took a more proactive approach to addressing Aboriginal health and social issues by ensuring Aboriginal priorities were included in policy discussions and development.
- MAA worked with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and Aboriginal partners on key reports relating to child welfare including the work of the Aboriginal Advisor, John Beaucage, and the reports of the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare. MAA supported MCYS in developing appropriate responses to those reports.
- MAA co-led the coordination of the provincial government's response to the Coroner's report on youth suicides in Pikangikum.
- MAA provided support to Right to Play and the Belinda Stronach Foundation to deliver programming to Aboriginal children and youth. Right to Play is currently being offered in 45 communities, including three urban Aboriginal organizations. The Belinda Stronach Foundation's One Laptop Per Child Canada program delivered affordable laptops customized with Aboriginal content and learning tools to every child aged 6-12 in five First Nations communities in Ontario.
- MAA worked with the Ministry of Education in bilateral discussions with the Anishinabek Nation to ensure that educational outcomes are improved and to see how results can be replicated in other parts of the province.

- The Minister met with the Ogichidaa (Grand Chief) and Treaty #3 Youth representatives as part of the Treaty 3 Bilateral Agreement. MAA provided further funding to Treaty 3 Youth to develop a toolkit for outreach on Youth Council Formation to broaden youth participation and capacity across Treaty #3 communities.
- Through the Intergovernmental Network on Nishnawbe Aski Children and Youth (IGN), MAA worked in partnership with Provincial Advocated for Children and Youth (PACY) and members of the IGN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Grand Council Treaty #3 and Robinson Superior First Nations) to deliver the Feathers of Hope Youth Forum, addressing issues of youth suicide and hopelessness in northern communities.

<u>Increasing Capacity</u>

- Through the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee (IIPAC), MAA funded policy capacity within the Political Territorial Organizations.
- MAA funded the Métis Nation of Ontario to support joint policy development and research.
- MAA funded the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres to support joint policy development and research.

- MAA built economic development capacity in First Nations located near the Ring of Fire through targeted investments in skills training, and governance and capacity building.
- MAA worked with the Ministry of Finance to establish pilot projects with two First Nations (Chippewas of the Thames, Akwesasne) to explore First Nations self-regulation of tobacco on reserve.

MAA focused on building capacity in a number of ways that included organizational support and community-based funding:

1. Aboriginal organizations that partner with Ontario as part of formal and informal relationship tables include:
    - Nishnawbe Aski Nation
    - Grand Council Treaty #3
    - Anishinabek Nation (Union of Ontario Indians)
    - Métis Nation of Ontario
    - Matawa First Nations Council
    - Chiefs of Ontario
    - Ontario Native Women's Association
    - Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

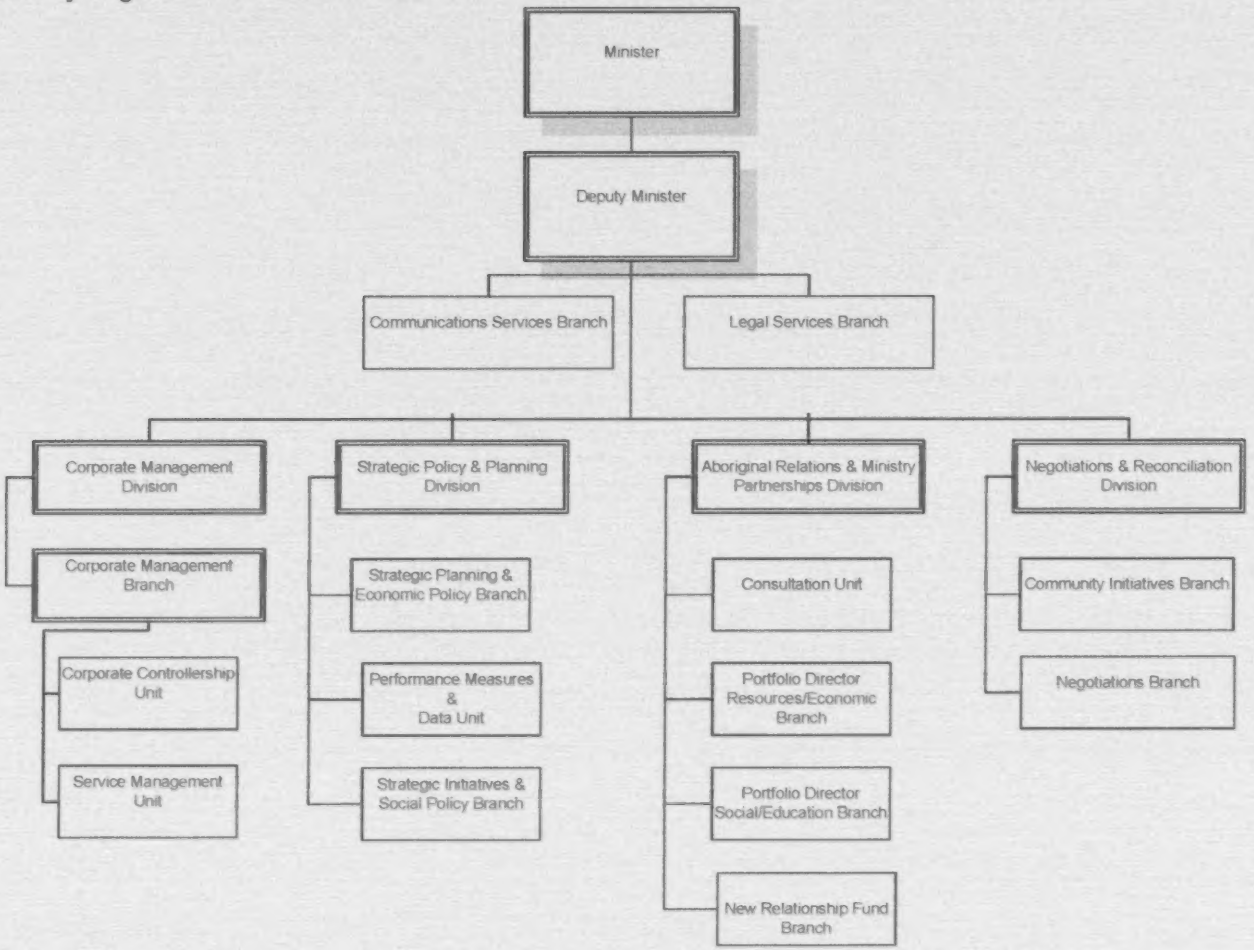
2. Aboriginal organizations that are partnering on capacity building:

    - Oshki Pimache O Win GED and mining readiness training

3. Aboriginal communities that partner with Ontario on specific initiatives including:
    - Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Multi jurisdictional table
    - Webequie First Nation – Ring of Fire capacity projects
    - Aroland First Nation – Ring of Fire capacity projects
    - Nibinamik First Nation – Ring of Fire capacity projects
    - Eabametoong First Nation – Ring of Fire capacity projects
    - Saugeen Nawash – economic development projects
    - Pikangikum First Nation – community development

4. Through MAA's partnership with Right to Play, the Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) program has helped build capacity with First Nation youth by employing and training community mentors to empower them to develop and deliver the program to the youth in the community. The community mentors also train others in the community to ensure that the learning continues.

1.3 Ministry Organization Chart



Effective April 1, 2013

1.4 AGENCIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (ABCS)

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has no agencies, boards, or commissions.

1.5 DETAILED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Table 2: Combined Operating and Capital Summary by Vote

Votes/Programs	Estimates 2013-14	Change from Estimates 2012-13		Estimates 2012-13 *	Interim Actuals 2012-13 * $	Actuals 2011-12 *
OPERATING EXPENSE						
Vote 2001	61,601,800	(9,831,500)	(14.9)	71,433,300	63,020,500	86,464,939
Less: Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Expense to be Voted	61,601,800	(9,831,500)	(13.8)	71,433,300	63,020,500	86,464,939
Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Appropriations	64,014	-	-	64,014	-	
Ministry Total Operating Expense	61,665,814	(9,831,500)	(13.8)	71,497,314	63,020,500	86,464,939
Consolidation & Other Adjustments - Organization ABC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidation & Other Adjustments - Organization DEF	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Including Consolidation & Other Adjustments	61,665,814	(9,831,500)	(13.8)	71,497,314	63,020,500	86,464,939
OPERATING ASSETS						
Vote A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Less: Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Assets to be Voted	-	-		-	-	-
Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry Total Operating Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
CAPITAL EXPENSE						
Vote 2001	3,001,000	(800,000)	(21.0)	3,801,000	3,701,000	8,616,740
Less: Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Expense to be Voted	3,001,000	(800,000)	(21.0)	3,801,000	3,701,000	8,616,740
Special Warrants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Appropriations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry Total Capital Expense	3,001,000	(800,000)	(21.0)	3,801,000	3,701,000	8,616,740
Consolidation & Other Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Consolidation & Other Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Including Consolidation & Other Adjustments	3,001,000	(800,000)	(21.0)	3,801,000	3,701,000	8,616,740
CAPITAL ASSETS						
Vote A	-	-		-	-	-
Less: Special Warrants	-	-		-	-	-
Total Capital Assets to be Voted	-	-		-	-	-
Special Warrants	-	-		-	-	-
Statutory Appropriations	-	-		-	-	-
Ministry Total Capital Assets	-	-		-	-	-
Consolidation and Other Adjustments (not including Assets)	64,666,814	(10,631,500)	(14.1)	75,298,314	66,721,500	95,081,679

* Estimates for the previous fiscal year are re-stated to reflect any changes in ministry organization and/or program structure. Interim actuals reflect the numbers presented in the 2013 Ontario Budget.

For additional financial information, see:

http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/budget/estimates/
http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/budget/paccts/
http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/ontariobudgets/2013/

APPENDIX: ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has a key role in providing advice to ministries as they develop programs, policies and initiatives that may impact Aboriginal peoples. In particular, MAA provided advice to various Ontario ministries on how to incorporate Aboriginal considerations in their policy development. Examples from 2012-13 include:

- recommending additions and revisions to the Great Lakes Protection Act and Strategy to better reflect First Nation and Métis interests;
- working collaboratively with the Ministry of the Environment to recommend various ways their Climate Ready initiative could incorporate Aboriginal specific considerations to mitigate climate change;
- advising the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines on how regulations and operational policies could be amended to better reflect Aboriginal considerations;
- working with the Ministry of Natural Resources to ensure that transformation plans, which includes modernizing approval processes, provides opportunities for First Nations and Métis to engage in these processes; and
- promoting the incorporation of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in policy development and implementation.

MAA led the performance measurement and tracking of results on Ontario's Aboriginal agenda. The Ministry also:

- worked collaboratively with partner ministries to lead the implementation and monitoring of an OPS-wide performance measurement framework, including the collection of quantitative and qualitative data; and
- provided an OPS-wide data request service, providing consistent Aboriginal statistics to be used across Ontario government and developed comprehensive Aboriginal-related data products to support the OPS in program and policy development.

MAA provided corporate policy and operational guidance and advice to ministries on meeting the Crown's legal duty to consult when the Crown undertakes activities that may impact Aboriginal and treaty rights. MAA provided input and advice to ministries in preparing legislation and regulations.

Reconciliation Activities

<u>Responding to the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry</u>

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for leading the government's response to the Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry. In 2012-13, the Ministry continued to work with partner ministries to track progress on the Ipperwash recommendations.

The Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee demonstrates the Province's commitment to develop stronger relationships with Aboriginal people in Ontario and to work collaboratively to improve socio-economic conditions and build new opportunities for Aboriginal people. Priorities for the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee for 2012-13 were consideration of a Treaty Commission for Ontario, First Nations policing and heritage and burial sites. Ontario and Canada jointly funded an initiative led by the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) to

determine perspectives on the potential scope, mandate and governance of a Treaty Commission. MAA also funded COO to hold a First Nations Knowledge Keepers and Guardians Gathering in March 2013 to discuss heritage and burial issues and the relations between First Nations and the various provincial ministries and agencies involved in heritage protection.

MAA continued to undertake research regarding historic Métis communities and corporate policy development regarding Aboriginal peoples and related issues. Significant among these projects is a tripartite (Ontario, Canada and Métis Nation of Ontario) joint research project into the existence of a rights-bearing Métis community that meets Powley criteria in the Mattawa-Nipissing region.

Improving Economic Growth/Creating Jobs

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs continues to support Aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses through various tools and supports. These initiatives include the Ontario Aboriginal Business Directory. The Directory is a free, public tool with a searchable database of Aboriginal owned businesses in Ontario and information on the goods or services they provide. MAA also supports business development and growth through the ongoing distribution and promotion of the Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit. This resource provides valuable information to Aboriginal entrepreneurs about starting and growing their businesses.

The government's Aboriginal procurement pilot program is intended to facilitate access to provincial procurement opportunities for Aboriginal-owned businesses. The initiative supports Aboriginal communities and businesses by stimulating business opportunities and economic development, as well as promoting partnership opportunities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal businesses. Eligible procurements relate to goods and services the Province purchases that have a significant impact on or benefit to Aboriginal people, including procurements related to government programs and policies for Aboriginal people. The Ministries of Aboriginal Affairs, Transportation, Northern Development and Mines, and Natural Resources are among the ministries that have purchased goods and services from Aboriginal suppliers. These include such items as publishing promotional materials related to the government's Aboriginal economic development supports, tree clearing and planting services in southwestern Ontario, subject matter experts for Aboriginal awareness training, clean-up work related to the Mid-Canada Line Radar in the Far North, and Aboriginal community consultation in northwestern Ontario.

In 2012, the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF) was officially launched and began flowing funding to eligible entrepreneurs and Métis-owned businesses. The fund is an independent Métis economic development corporation that is receiving up to $30 million in provincial funding over 10 years (2011-2021). The MVDF uses provincial funds to support Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in the resource sector on an application basis.

In 2012-13, MAA, in partnership with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Natural Resources, successfully concluded the Northern Training Partnership Fund (NTPF). The fund was launched in 2010 with a $45 million investment over three years to prepare northern Ontarians for new jobs in emerging resources sectors; funding was budgeted to MAA and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Since 2010, MAA has provided

NTPF nearly $30 million in funding to support 22 skills training projects for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in communities across Northern Ontario. Approximately 2,400 northern Ontarians have participated in training projects in resource-related sectors, including mining, forestry, energy and the environment.

Building on the success of the NTPF, MAA is improving economic opportunities for First Nations near the Ring of Fire through additional skills training investments. Projects focused on providing social, community and economic development supports so communities have the skills needed to participate in resource development in the Ring of Fire. Examples of training and development opportunities supported in 2012-13 include heavy equipment operation, pre-employment trades training, and General Educational Development preparation.

MAA also worked with Aboriginal communities and organizations to regularly share key economic development information and resources. Examples include working with other provincial ministries to deliver information sessions on the government's business development tools and supports, the provincial procurement process, and funding programs for Aboriginal communities such as the New Relationship Fund and the Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Program. In 2012-13, MAA also supported economic development events, including the 2012 First Nations Economic Developers Association Annual Conference at Rama First Nation, the 2012 Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Conference and Tradeshow in Ottawa, and the 2013 I Do Business National Summit and Tradeshow in Toronto.

Improving Youth Outcomes

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs continues to work to close the socio-economic gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. In 2012-13 MAA worked with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) and Aboriginal partners on key reports relating to child welfare including the work of the Aboriginal Advisor, John Beaucage, and the reports of the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare. MAA also worked in partnership with MCYS on engagement to support the development of an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy. As well, MAA continued to work closely with MCYS on the development of key supporting documents necessary to support the engagement process and is partnering with MCYS to kick off its initial engagement roundtables with Aboriginal partners in June 2013.

MAA partnered with the Ministry of Education in the development of a joint policy initiative aimed at improving education outcomes for First Nation students by supporting the successful transition of First Nation students from on-reserve to provincially funded schools. MAA assumed a leadership role in national efforts to address the Aboriginal education achievement gap by chairing the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group Education Sub-committee with provinces, territories and National Aboriginal Organizations. The Ministry also worked with the Ministry of Education in bilateral discussions with the Anishinabek Nation to ensure that educational outcomes are improved and to see how results can be replicated in other parts of the province.

MAA co-led the coordination of the provincial government's response to the Coroner's report on youth suicides in Pikangikum and provided support to Pikangikum First Nation's Health, Education and Elders Committee to develop a social development strategy for that community.

MAA provided support to Right to Play and the Belinda Stronach Foundation for deliver programming to Aboriginal children and youth. Right to Play is currently being offered in 45 communities, including three urban Aboriginal organizations. The Belinda Stronach Foundation's One Laptop Per Child Canada program delivered affordable laptops customized with Aboriginal content and learning tools to every child aged 6-12 in five First Nation communities in Ontario.

The Minister met with the Ogihidaa and Grand Council Treaty #3 Youth representatives as part of the Treaty #3 Bilateral Agreement. MAA provided further funding to Grand Council Treaty #3 Youth to develop a toolkit for outreach on Youth Council Formation to broaden youth participation and capacity across Grand Council Treaty #3 communities.

Through the Intergovernmental Network on Nishnawbe Aski Children and Youth (IGN), MAA worked in partnership with the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth and members of the IGN (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Grand Council treaty #3 and Robinson Superior First Nations) to deliver the Feathers of Hope Youth Forum, in order to address issues of youth suicide and hopelessness in northern communities.

Increased Capacity

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs provided funding to support the policy development and technical capacity in the Chiefs of Ontario and Provincial-Territorial Organizations (PTO's) through the Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC), in support of joint initiatives with MAA.

In January 2013, the government announced $3.1 million in targeted support for skills training, governance and capacity building for First Nation communities in the Ring of Fire area. Projects focused on providing social, community and economic development supports to improve community capacity to participate in resource development opportunities in the Ring of Fire. Capacity building projects included finance and administration training, strategic planning workshops, and computer and technology training.

MAA focused on building capacity in a number of ways that included organizational support and community-based funding:

Aboriginal organizations that partner with Ontario as part of formal and informal relationship tables include:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Grand Council Treaty #3
- Anishinabek Nation (Union of Ontario Indians)
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Matawa First Nations Council
- Chiefs of Ontario
- Ontario Native Women's Association
- Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

Aboriginal organizations that are partnering on capacity building:

- Oshki Pimache O Win GED and mining readiness training

Aboriginal communities that partner with Ontario on specific initiatives including:

- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Multi jurisdictional table
- Webequie First Nation – Ring of Fire capacity projects
- Aroland First Nation – Ring of Fire capacity projects
- Nibinamik First Nation – Ring of Fire capacity projects
- Eabametoong First Nation – Ring of Fire capacity projects
- Saugeen Nawash – economic development projects
- Pikangikum First Nation – community development

Through MAA's partnership with Right to Play, the Promoting Life-skills in Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) program has helped build capacity with First Nation youth by:

- Employing and training community mentors to empower them to develop and deliver the program to the youth in the community. The community mentors also train others in the community to ensure that the learning continues.

Table 1: Ministry Interim Actual Expenditures 2012-13

	Ministry Interim Actual Expenditures ($M) 2012-13 *
Operating	62.6
Capital	3.7
Staff Strength ** (as of March 31, 2013)	144.6

* Interim actuals reflect the numbers presented in the 2013 Ontario Budget.

** Ontario Public Service Full-Time Equivalent positions.